

IPRT WORKS for Iowa

The Institute for Physical Research and Technology has continuously evolved to meet its objectives of promoting world-class, fundamental and applied interdisciplinary research in physical science and engineering; facilitating economic growth and diversity in Iowa; and supporting education. In the last year that has meant new initiatives and new centers, all aimed at addressing our state's and our nation's most pressing concerns.

We've opened two new IPRT centers in support of new Ames Laboratory initiatives. The Midwest Forensics Resource Center is the culmination of a long-term effort to bring our technologies to bear on the problems of crime fighting. It involves many federal agencies as well as law enforcement organizations from nine Midwestern states. The Center for Catalysis is developing useful, practical catalysts and sustainable green chemistry methods for application in agricultural, industrial and environmental sciences.

Along the same line, two IPRT centers are leading the way in initiatives recently begun by Iowa State University. Our Virtual Reality Applications Center is heading up ISU's human-computing interaction initiative, which will research the way people work with increasing powerful and ubiquitous computers. Our Microanalytical Instrumentation Center is directing the university's combinatorial discovery initiative, which will apply combinatorial approaches to materials and catalysis components. IPRT, ISU and the state of Iowa will all greatly benefit from our efforts to get out ahead of the pack in these emerging and crucial technologies.



Indeed, these initiatives showcase how education is integrally involved in IPRT's activities. Our educational efforts also include our Science Bound program, which helps underrepresented students of color pursue careers in math and science.

IPRT's outreach efforts to directly help Iowa companies and start new companies continues. In this report, you can learn how we've saved companies hundreds of thousands of dollars and how we've helped manufacturers design new and innovative projects. And you can read how IPRT is expanding on its efforts to help startup companies with research and marketing efforts.

Through research, economic development and education, IPRT works to make Iowa a better, safer and more prosperous place to live and work. Please give us a call and let us know how IPRT can work for you.

Tom Barton
IPRT Director